

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A developer unit with a toner supply and a toner application device (23), wherein toner is supplied to a developer device (30) by the toner application device (23), and the developer device (30) can be brought into planar contact with an OPC (10), the developer unit comprising:

the developer device (30) having a developer tape (34) applied in a contact area to sections on a surface of the OPC (10);

a tape tensioning device assigned to the developer tape; and

a control unit assigned to the tape tensioning device which adjusts the tape tensioning device as a function of a predeterminable set point.

2. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the developer tape (34) is an endlessly revolving tape which revolves around at least two deflection rollers (31, 32), and the contact area with the OPC (10) is formed in a space between the deflection rollers (31, 32).

3. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 2, wherein at least one of the deflection rollers (31, 32) is placed against the OPC (10) with the developer tape (34) placed between them.

Serial No.: 10/572,996

4. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 2, wherein the contact area is arranged at a distance from both deflection rollers ~~(31, 32)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 4, wherein a charging arrangement ~~(33)~~ is assigned to the contact area and an electrical charge is applied to the toner.

6. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 5, wherein the charging device ~~(33)~~ comprises at least one corona device.

7. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 5, wherein the charging device ~~(33)~~ is formed by at least one bias roller contacting, ~~at which~~ the developer tape ~~(34)~~ rolls off on a side facing away from the OPC ~~(10)~~.

Claims 8 and 9 (Canceled)

Serial No.: 10/572,996

10. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim [[9]] 7, wherein on a surface receiving the toner, the developer tape (34) has a surface roughness in a range of < 0.7 times of the d_{50vol} value of a toner used, between 5 and 8 μm .

11. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 10, wherein a metering roller (24) ~~rolls off~~ contacts the coated surface of the developer tape (34) downstream of an application device (23) and upstream of the contact area in a transport direction.

12. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 11, wherein the metering roller (24) rests against one of the deflection rollers (31, 32) with the developer tape (34) placed between them.

13. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 12, wherein the toner application device (23) is an application roller in combination with, ~~which rolls off on~~ one of the deflection rollers (31, 32) with the developer tape (34) placed between them.

Serial No.: 10/572,996

14. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein a charging arrangement (33) is assigned to the contact area and an electrical charge is applied to the toner.

15. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 14, wherein the charging device (33) comprises at least one corona device.

16. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 14, wherein the charging device (33) is formed by at least one bias roller contacting, ~~at which the developer tape (34) rolls off~~ on a side facing away from the OPC ~~(10)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim [[1]] 19, wherein a tape tensioning device is assigned to the developer tape (34).

18. (Previously Presented) The developer unit in accordance with claim 17, wherein a control unit is assigned to the tape tensioning device which adjusts the tape tensioning device as a function of a predeterminable set point.

Serial No.: 10/572,996

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The developer unit in accordance with claim 1;~~ A developer unit with a toner supply and a toner application device, wherein toner is supplied to a developer device by the toner application device, and the developer device can be brought into planar contact with an OPC, the developer unit comprising:

the developer device having a developer tape applied in a contact area to sections on a surface of the OPC, wherein on a surface receiving the toner, the developer tape (34) has a surface roughness in a range of < 0.7 times of the d_{50vol} value of a toner used, between 5 and 8 μm .

20. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 2, wherein a metering roller (24) ~~rolls off~~ contacts a coated surface of the developer tape (34) downstream of an application device (23) and upstream of the contact area in a transport direction.

21. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 20, wherein the metering roller (24) rests against one of the deflection rollers (31, 32) with the developer tape (34) placed between them.

Serial No.: 10/572,996

22. (Currently Amended) The developer unit in accordance with claim 2, wherein the toner application device (23) is an application roller in combination with, ~~which rolls off on~~ one of the deflection rollers (31, 32) with the developer tape (34) placed between them.

23. (New) The developer unit in accordance with claim 19, wherein the developer tape is an endlessly revolving tape which revolves around at least two deflection rollers, and the contact area with the OPC is formed in a space between the deflection rollers.

24. (New) The developer unit in accordance with claim 23, wherein at least one of the deflection rollers is placed against the OPC with the developer tape placed between them.